GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:108
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
STANDARD OF EDUCATION
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Shandil Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to stem the decline in standards of education at all levels;

(b) if so, whether the majority of management institutions in the country are offering sub-standard education;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the steps being considered to improve the quality of education at all levels; and

(e) the action being taken against the institutions which do not offer quality education?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 108 FOR 13.07.2004 REGARDING THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION ASKED BY DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL AND SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB.

The issues of quality have always been central to educational policy. It has been the Ministry's endeavour to ensure continuous and sustained improvement in the quality of education at all levels.

The NPE provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels.

The concerns regarding quality and equity are continuously addressed by the Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions in education at all levels. Such interventions include infrastructure development, supply of teaching- learning material, periodic revision of the curricula, introduction of subjects in new and emerging areas, value education, teachers' training and deployment, and reforms in the examination system.

The Scheme of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was evolved to pursue Universal Elementary Education of a satisfactory quality in the mission mode, with emphasis on education for life.

The National Council for Teacher Education, a statutory body, is responsible for regulation and the proper observance of norms and standards in teacher education at the elementary and secondary levels.

In order to fulfill their statutory responsibilities for maintaining standards, necessary regulations, directions and circulars, etc., in this regard are issued from time to time by the University Grants Commission in respect of higher education Institutions and by the All India Council for Technical Education in respect of Technical and Management Institutions, besides appropriate interventions by the Central Government.

The Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Management are acknowledged as 'Centres of Excellence' the world over. The Regional Engineering Colleges have been upgraded to National Institutes of Technology, expanding the avenues for top quality technical education for more aspirants.

Recent initiatives taken to strengthen the technical education system include a decision to introduce a credit- based system in the technical education, conversion of Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) into the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), the launching of a fully dedicated technical education channel, launching of a special programme to improve the quality of technical education, participation of private bodies, development of technologies in emerging areas and their transfer to user agencies through technology development missions, transfer of techno-economic advances in technical education and appropriate technologies to rural people through expansion of Community Polytechnics and improving the productivity of the informal sector of the economy.